

What is claimed is:

Sub a1

1. A communication apparatus for communicating over a plurality of channels at a time and changing a communication rate on the base of a number of the channels, comprising:
 notifying means for notifying a connected communication apparatus of a number of channels usable at the apparatus;
 detecting means for detecting through communication with the connected communication apparatus a number of channels useable at the connected communication apparatus; and
 selecting means for selecting a communication rate on the basis of the notified number of channels and the detected number of channels.

2. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selecting means select the communication rate upon changing of the notified number of channels.

3. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selecting means select the communication rate upon changing of the detected number of channels.

4. The communication apparatus according to the claim 1, wherein said notifying means set the number of channels in control information which is transmitted to the connected communication apparatus.

5. The communication apparatus according to the claim 1, wherein said detecting means detect the number of channels in control information which is received from the connected communication apparatus.

6. A method for selecting a communication rate of a

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

P13-16
P17

via datagram

(see P17)

communication apparatus for communicating over a plurality of channels at a time and changing a communication rate on the base of a number of the channels, comprising:

notifying a connected communication apparatus of a number of channels usable at the apparatus;

detecting through communication with the connected communication apparatus a number of channels useable at the connected communication apparatus; and

selecting a communication rate on the basis of the notified number of channels and the detected number of channels.

7. The method for selecting the communication rate of the communication apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein said step of selecting includes the step of selecting the communication rate upon changing of the notified number of channels.

8. The method for selecting the communication rate of the communication apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein said step of selecting includes the step of selecting the communication rate upon changing of the detected number of channels.

9. The method for selecting the communication rate of the communication apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein said step of notifying includes setting the number of channels in control information which is transmitted to the connected communication apparatus.

10. The method for selecting the communication rate of the communication apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein said step of detecting includes detecting the number
of channels in control information which is received from the
connected communication apparatus.

